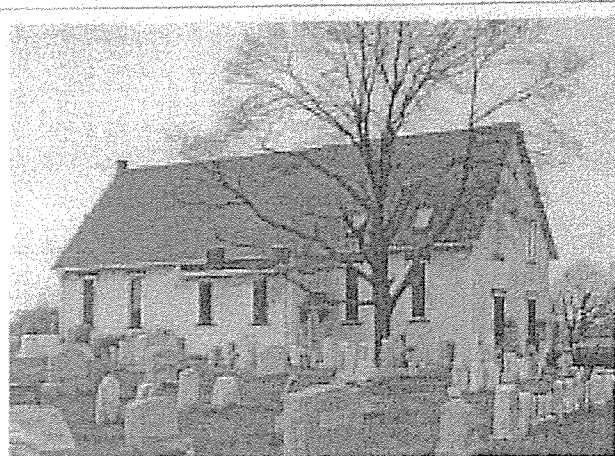


## THE MEETINGHOUSE LAW OFFICE BUILDING



It is a tall building, made even taller by its steep slanting roof, making it a structure that is not easily missed as you travel along Route 724. The walls are made of light beige stucco which helps it stand out even more against the surrounding background. This marks the 120<sup>th</sup> year that this magnificent building has been standing tall on that location, peacefully overlooking its busy corner. It was built in the year 1889, which classifies it as one of the historical treasures of East Vincent. When it was brand new the Civil War was a vivid memory for most people and the person occupying the White House was a gentleman by the name of Benjamin Harrison.

Located on Mennonite Church Road, the cathedral windows, and the adjoining cemetery give evidence that this building once served as a house of worship for many generations of township residents. Today that treasure is being preserved for future generations even though it no longer serves as a church. It now is the Meetinghouse Office of the Mayerson Law firm. The owner, Hy Mayerson, has a keen sense of history and is carefully preserving the historic nature of the old building while fully using it for his own purposes.

The simple magnificence of the building had long attracted his attention and when the opportunity arose for him to gain access and move his offices into the stately Meetinghouse, he moved quickly to claim this prize. One of the features that attracted him was the large internal open space, free from any visible supporting beams. That feature and the original ceiling are among the many items that remain the same to this very day.

Internally he revamped the structure to meet the needs of the law office while still preserving its historic nature. There was no need of the pews but the old pulpit still remains. The original doors continue to be used although they now can be somewhat drafty and the wash rooms have been only slightly modified. The main challenge came when the growth of the firm brought a need for more space. Rather than yielding to the pressures of the builder to add a modern addition to the grand old building, the owner chose to preserve the integrity of that historic structure by adding several feet in exactly the same style, windows and all, as the original building. From inside, you can see that the former exterior wall is still in place but from the outside one would hardly notice that any alterations of this historic structure had ever taken place.



This Meetinghouse Office is a perfect example of historic preservation and adaptive reuse. The stately building remains intact for all to see and recall the glorious achievements of yesteryear while it continues to perform a useful service for this modern generation. Preservation of grand old buildings like this is vital for our community, for once they are gone, both the visible buildings and most of their memories will be gone forever.

Dr. Robert W. Price  
East Vincent Historical Commission

NOTE: The Vincent Mennonite Congregation built the Meetinghouse and met in it from 1889 until April 1974 when their present church building was completed on Seven Stars Road.